

that a position of the focus area used in image capture is centered in a display, and outputting signals to display the processed images.

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18. (Amended) A method according to Claim 10, wherein the processing and outputting step includes using a position of the focus area used in image capture as a reference point to enlarge the images recorded by the camera, and outputting signals to display the enlarged images.

REMARKS

The claims now pending in the application are Claims 1 to 18, the independent claims being Claims 1, 6, 10 and 15. Claims 1 to 15, 17 and 18, have been amended. The amendments merely remove means plus function language and improve the form of the claims. Therefore, the amendments do not narrow the scope of the claims. No new matter has been added.

In the Official Action dated December 13, 2001, Claims 1 to 18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), as unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,808,667 (Sugiyama), in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,278,603 (Kazumi). Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection respectfully are requested in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

In one aspect of the invention, recited in Claims 1 and 10, a method and apparatus that displays images recorded by a camera includes reading information regarding a focus area used in image recording by the camera and outputting signals to display images based on the focus area information.

In another aspect of the invention, recited in Claims 6 and 15, a method and apparatus that displays images recorded by a camera includes capturing images optically recorded on a photographic film, reading information magnetically recorded on the photographic film, and processing and outputting the images captured by an image-capture sensor by using the information read by a reading device or in a reading step, including information regarding a focus area used during image capture.

Yet neither Sugiyama nor Kazumi suggest the features of Claims 1, 6, 10 and 15 and even if those teachings were combined one would not obtain the claimed invention. Sugiyama discloses a method of automatically regenerating and printing a film image. Sugiyama contemplates a mouse, a monitor, a video tape recorder, and a camera that records various kinds of magnetic data for each frame in a magnetic record layer on a film.

Kazumi discloses a camera that simplifies photography. A user can set a plurality of camera operations on the basis of a signal from information reading and supplying means, such as a bar code reader. Kazumi contemplates using a plurality of example photographs with a bar code next to each photograph, allowing a user to select camera operations using a bar code list and bar code reader.

Neither Sugiyama nor Kazumi teach or suggest reading information regarding *a focus area used in image recording by the camera* and outputting signals to display images based on that focus area information, as recited in Claims 1 and 10.

Likewise, the cited art does not teach or suggest reading information magnetically recorded on the photographic film, and outputting and processing images by

using that information, including information regarding *a focus area used during image capture*, as recited in Claims 6 and 15.

Thus, even if combined the cited art would not disclose or suggest the claimed invention. Instead, if the teachings of Kazumi were applied to Sugiyama, Applicant submits that one would obtain a device in which images can be output based on information selected using example photographs, not based on information used in image recording by the camera (or during image capture).

For the above reasons, Applicant submits that independent Claims 1, 6, 10 and 15 are allowable over the cited art.

Claims 2 to 5, 7 to 9, 11 to 14, 16 and 18 depend from Claims 1, 6, 10 and 15, respectively, and are believed allowable for the same reasons. Moreover, each of these dependent claims recites additional features in combination with the features of independent Claims 1, 6, 10 and 15, and is believed allowable in its own right. Individual consideration of the dependent claims respectfully is requested.

Applicant believes that the present Amendment is responsive to each of the points raised by the Examiner in the Official Action, and submits that the application is in allowable form. Favorable consideration of the claims and passage to issue of the present application at the Examiner's earliest convenience earnestly are solicited.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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VERSION SHOWING CHANGES MADE TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Amended) An apparatus that displays [for displaying] images recorded by a camera, said apparatus comprising:

a reading device that reads [means for reading] information [of] regarding a focus area used in image recording by said camera [capture]; and

an output device that outputs signals to display images [means for outputting,] based on the focus area information read by said reading device [means, signals for displaying images].
2. (Amended) An apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the focus area information read by said reading device [means] represents a position of said focus area used in the image recording by said camera [capture].
3. (Amended) An apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein said output device [means] processes the images recorded by said camera so that a position of said focus area used in the image recording by said camera [capture] is centered in a display [displaying], and outputs signals for displaying the processed images.

4. (Amended) An apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein said output device [means] uses as a reference point a position of said focus area used in the image recording by said camera [capture] to enlarge the images recorded by said camera, and outputs signals for displaying the enlarged images.

5. (Amended) An apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein said reading device [means] includes a magnetic head that reads [for reading] magnetic information recorded on a photographic film [for] used in said camera.

6. (Amended) An apparatus that displays [for displaying] images recorded by a camera, said apparatus comprising:

an image-capture sensor for capturing images optically recorded on a photographic film;

a reading device that reads [means for reading] information magnetically recorded on the photographic film; and

an output device that processes and outputs [means for processing and outputting] the images captured by the image-capture sensor by using[, from] the information read by said reading device, including information regarding a focus area used during image capture [means, information of a focus area used in image capture].

7. (Amended) An apparatus according to Claim 6, further comprising a storage device that stores [means for storing] images captured by said image-capture sensor, wherein said output [means] device processes and outputs images stored in said storage [means] device.

8. (Amended) An apparatus according to Claim 6, wherein said output device [means] processes the images recorded by said camera so that a position of said focus area used in image capture is centered in a display [displaying], and outputs signals for displaying the processed images.

9. (Amended) An apparatus according to Claim 6, wherein said output [means] device uses as a reference point a position of said focus area used in image capture to enlarge the images recorded by said camera, and outputs signals for displaying the enlarged images.

10. (Amended) A method for displaying images recorded by a camera comprising:

reading information [of] regarding a focus area used in image recording by the camera [capture]; and

outputting signals to display images[,] based on the focus area information read in the reading step[, signals for displaying images].

11. (Amended) A method according to Claim 10, wherein the focus area information read in the reading step represents a position of the focus area in the image recording by the camera [capture].

12. (Amended) A method according to Claim 10, wherein the outputting step includes processing the images recorded by the camera so that a position of the focus area used in the image capture is centered in a display [displaying], and outputting signals [for displaying] to display the processed images.

13. (Amended) A method according to Claim 10, wherein the outputting step includes using a position of the focus area used in the image recording [capture] as a reference point to enlarge the images recorded by the camera, and outputting signals to display [for displaying] the enlarged image.

14. (Amended) A method according to Claim 10, wherein the reading step includes reading magnetic information recorded on a photographic film [for] used in the camera by a magnetic head.

15. (Amended) A method for displaying images recorded by a camera comprising:

capturing images [optically recorded on photographic film] by an image-capture sensor, the images having been optically recorded on photographic film;
reading information magnetically recorded on the photographic film; and
processing and outputting the images captured by the image-capture sensor [including] by using the information read in the reading step, including information [of] regarding a focus area used during [in] the image capture [from information read in the reading step].

17. (Amended) A method according to Claim 10, wherein the processing and outputting step includes processing the images recorded by said camera so that a position of the focus area used in image capture is centered in a display, [displaying] and outputting signals to display [for displaying] the processed images.

18. (Amended) A method according to Claim 10, wherein the processing and outputting step includes using a position of the focus area used in image capture as a reference point to enlarge the images recorded by the camera, and outputting signals to display [for displaying] the enlarged images.